

Message

From: Louis, Gail [Louis.Gail@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/1/2019 12:23:02 AM
To: Yelensky, Erica [Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks.

From: Yelensky, Erica
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Louis, Gail <Louis.Gail@epa.gov>
Subject: **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Hi Erica,

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are having a great 2019 so far! as you are likely aware, multiple stakeholder groups expressed interest in participating in the 2014 Program Evaluation for the National Estuary Program at Santa Monica Bay, for which the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is the management conference. No meaningful public participation in that process was provided at that time. The Land Trust believes that lack of stakeholder participation resulted in a superficial evaluation that failed to substantively identify issues requiring immediate attention, which in turn caused avoidable problems for the management of SMBRC over the subsequent period. This shortcoming should be corrected in the current Program Evaluation process.

Stakeholder involvement, transparency and accountability are central tenets of the National Estuary Program. As such, I am eager to hear EPA Region 9's plan for public participation in the current PE process. Specifically, the Land Trust respectfully recommends the following components of public participation:

- At least one stakeholder meeting with EPA staff present to interactively communicate concerns and recommendations. (proposed 2 hours)

- On-site field trip to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve to visualize positive and negative developments in this critical watershed ecosystem, which has long been a top priority in the Bay Restoration Plan (CCMP), and for which SMBRC was still acknowledging a central role at the time of the last evaluation. (proposed 2 hours)

- Opportunity to provide written comments and documentation to a draft Program Evaluation before a final Program Evaluation is published. (time commitment depends on number of comments received)

It is the role of NEP staff to assemble the appropriate materials in response to the program evaluation guidance and in preparation for the program evaluation. After the PE site visit EPA staff develop a program evaluation letter that we send to the NEP director who then shares it with the management conference.

The Land Trust is eager to assist in any way we can, whether that be by coordinating the logistics of any meetings and site visits, paying for transportation around the ecological reserve, buying refreshments, etc.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Best,

Erica

Erica Yelensky
Direct: (415) 972-3021
Watersheds Office, U.S. EPA Region 9, Water Division

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Coordinator &
San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund Outreach Coordinator

Disclaimer: This message was written with voice activated software. It may contain errors. Some of them might be interesting. Observe the context and the meaning will, hopefully, be obvious.